

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-8 are allowed since certain key features of the claimed invention are not taught or fairly suggested by prior art. **In claim 1**, “a sustain pulse generating circuit for generating a sustain pulse of a predetermined waveform and an offset pulse generating circuit for generating an offset pulse higher in peak value than the sustain pulse, the sustain pulse generating circuit and the offset pulse generating circuit being connected in parallel, wherein the offset pulse generating circuit includes a source of a first voltage for applying a offset voltage, a first switching circuit for applying the first voltage between the display electrodes, an inductance component of generating a resonance voltage for applying the offset voltage, and a forward diode for permitting a current supplied to the display electrodes to flow forward so that the resonance voltage is maintained at a higher voltage level than a voltage level of the sustain voltage for a predetermined period of time, and the sustain pulse generating circuit includes a source of a second voltage for applying a sustain voltage and a second switching circuit for applying the second voltage between the display electrodes”. The closest prior art Sakita (7,109,662 B2) teaches a driving plasma display panel includes applying a ramp waveform in the resetting period ... voltages applied between the electrodes at the railing edge of the ramp waveform, and an offset voltage of the voltage applied between the electrodes at the end of the sustain period, the voltage of a driving waveform for each electrode is set; however, singularly or in combination with other prior art, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

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2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lee (6,844,685 B2) teaches applying a voltage of a rising ramp wave-form having at least two slopes to the scan electrodes during a reset period.

Kigo et al. (6,633,285 B1) teach a sustain pulse switching circuit for applying a sustain pulse to the capacitive load during a sustain period for lighting the discharge cell.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mansour M. Said whose telephone number is 571-272-7679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30-6:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe whose telephone number is 571-272-7681.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: 571-273-8300 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window at the Randolph Building, 401, Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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/MANSOUR M SAID/

Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Bipin Shalwala/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629